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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,950	07/29/2002	Helge Schmidt	KSN0024	2570

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EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/049,950

**Applicant(s)**

SCHMIDT ET AL.

**Examiner**

Michael C. Zarroli

**Art Unit**

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9,10,12,16,17,19,20 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,11,13-15,18,21 and 25-27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. Objections have been overcome.

### ***Specification***

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the language that indicates alleged benefits. Correction is required. **See MPEP § 608.01(b).**
3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o).  
Correction of the following is required: “non-releasable manner.”
4. All other objections have been overcome.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. Objections have been overcome.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

6. Rejections have been overcome.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

8. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 12, 16-17, 19-20 and, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pope et al (US 5921787).

Pope discloses an electrical connector with one or more modules (10, 11). Each module comprises a contact support (19) with contact elements (14) connected to the support (fig. 3) and extending along its surface (fig. 2).

Pope also discloses that these elements and supports are connected in a non-releasable manner (fig. 3a).

Regarding claim 2 Pope discloses that the contact elements are metal strips (col. 6 lines 55-58).

Regarding claims 3 and 4 Pope discloses that the front ends of the contact supports do not have contact elements but they do have tapers (unnumbered figure 3).

Regarding claims 5 and 6 Pope discloses that the contact elements project beyond the rear of the support and that they are bent (15a figure 3).

Regarding claims 9 and 10 Pope discloses that the contact elements have a resilient protuberance (15) that is meant to act as contact locations.

Regarding claim 12 Pope discloses that the contact supports have groove-like recesses for the contact elements (fig. 1).

Regarding claims 16 and 17 Pope discloses that in the assembled state the modules are inserted between components (fig. 3a).

Regarding claims 19 and 20 Pope discloses that the modules are enclosed by housing parts (fig. 1) and that this housing encloses the front end of the modules (fig. 3).

Regarding claim 22-23 Pope discloses that the connector is mated with a complimentary connector after precentering (fig. 3a).

Regarding claim 24 Pope discloses that the connector is designed to be soldered to the circuit board using PSGA technology (col. 2 lines 15+).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claims 7-8, 11, 13-15, 18, 21 and, 25-27 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments filed 11/28/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Pope et al (US 5921787) fails to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. the detailed definition of "non-releasable" on page 10 paragraphs 4 & 5 of the remarks) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the

specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

### ***Conclusion***

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is

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703-305-0608 (**after 1/27/04 at 571-272-2101**). The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Michael C. Zarroli  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

*MCZ*

MCZ

December 31, 2003